



Miscellaneous

No: 1496

UK Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012

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General Permissions and Authorisations

(UK) Standardised European Rules of the Air – Exceptions to the Minimum Height Requirements

Background

- 1) This ORS 4 enables exceptions to the (UK) SERA Minimum Height requirements in order that aircraft may be operated in accordance with established UK procedures and practices as allowed by the flexibility provisions within (UK) SERA.

Interpretation

- 2) In these Permissions and Authorisations, references to EU Regulations are to those regulations as retained (and amended in UK domestic law) under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and are referenced 'UK Regulation (EU) year/number' or 'UK Regulation (EU) No. number/year'.
- 3) In these Permissions and Authorisations:
 - a) "(UK) SERA" means the Annex to UK Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012 (the (UK) Standardised European Rules of the Air) and references to SERA followed by a number mean the corresponding provision of (UK) SERA;
 - b) "the Order" means the Air Navigation Order 2016; and
 - c) "notified" has the same meaning as in Schedule 1 of the Order.
- 4) **Negligent or reckless operation of aircraft and Minimum heights**

Nothing in these Permissions and Authorisations relieves pilots from their responsibilities under SERA.3101 - Negligent or reckless operation of aircraft - and SERA.3105 – Minimum Heights.

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Permissions and Authorisations

5) **General (SERA.5005(f)(2)) – Day VFR Flights**

- a) Except when being flown over the congested areas of cities, towns or settlements or over an open-air assembly of persons, or in a Flying Display, Private Flying Display, aircraft race or contest, The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) permits, under SERA.5005(f), an aircraft conducting day VFR flight, to be flown at a height of:
 - i) less than 500 ft above the ground or water; or
 - ii) less than 500 ft above the highest obstacle within a radius of 150 m from the aircraft,subject to the condition in subparagraph (b).
- b) The aircraft must not be flown closer than 500 ft to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure except with the permission of the CAA.
- c) In subparagraph a):
 - i) “Flying Display” has the same meaning as in Schedule 1 of the Order; and
 - ii) “Private Flying Display” has the same meaning as in CAP 403.

6) **General (SERA.5005(c)(5)(ii)) – Night VFR Flights**

- a) The CAA authorises, under SERA.5005(c)(5), an aircraft conducting night VFR flight, as specified in SERA.5005(c)(5)(ii), to be flown below a level which is 1,000 ft above the highest obstacle located within 8 km of the estimated position of the aircraft, subject to the conditions in subparagraph (b).
- b) The aircraft must be flown:
 - i) at a height not less than 1,000 ft above the highest obstacle within a radius of 600 m from the aircraft when over the congested areas of cities, towns or settlements or over an open-air assembly of persons; and
 - ii) elsewhere than as specified in (i), at a height of more than 500 ft above the ground or water, or 500 ft above the highest obstacle within a radius of 150 m from the aircraft.

7) **Special Visual Flight Rules (Special VFR) Flight and Notified Route (SERA.5005(c) and 5005(f))**

- a) The CAA authorises and permits, under SERA.5005(c) and SERA.5005(f), an aircraft to be flown below a level which is 1,000 ft above the highest obstacle within a radius of 600 m from the aircraft over the congested areas of cities, towns or settlements if:
 - i) it is flying on a special VFR flight; or
 - ii) it is operating in accordance with the procedures notified by the CAA for the route being flown,subject to the conditions in subparagraphs (b), (c) and (d).
- b) The aircraft must not be flown closer than 500 ft to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure except when necessary for take-off or landing or with the permission of the CAA;
- c) Unless the prior permission of the CAA has been obtained, landings may only be made by an aircraft flying under this permission at a licensed aerodrome or a Government aerodrome; and